

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W
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R 291403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0448
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SW, RH
SUBJ: SITHOLE PAYS QUICK VISIT TO SWEDEN

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: NDABANINGI SITHOLE AND AZSANY DELEFA-
TION VISITED STOCKHOLM APRIL 21 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER SODER, AID OFFICIALS, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER
OLOF PALME. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS, SITHOLE SAID HE HAD COME
TO SWEDEN TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE FOR PAST SWEDISH SUPPORT
AND TO DISCUSS FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO
ZIMBABWE.

2. SITHOLE PREDICTABLY ATTACKED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS AN
INSTRUMENT OF INTERVENTION BY THE FRONT LINE STATES AND HAD
HARSH WORDS FOR HIS RIVAL IN ZANU, ROBERT MUGABE. HE INSISTED
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THAT, AS THE ONLY ELECTED NATIONALIST LEADERS IN ZIMBABWE,
HE AND MUZOREWA HOLD THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF
ZIMBABWEANS, AND ADDED, "THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DOESN'T EXIST IN
THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE." SITHOLE EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT
BRITISH MINISTER OWEN'S RECENT EFFORTS WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE,
BUT SAID HE SAW NO REASON NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A UK-US-
SPONSORED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IF IT COMES TO PASS.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, SITHOLE IN PRIVATE CONTINUED HIS ATTACKS ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MUGABE, AND THE FRONT LINE STATES. HE EXPLAINED THAT MOST OF THE GUERRILLAS SUPPORT HIM RATHER THAN MUGABE AND THAT MUGABE'S "ARMY" OFTEN FIGHTS AMONG ITSELF.

4. SITHOLE ALSO TOLD THE MFA THAT HE OPPOSES US CO-SPONSORSHIP OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH, CHARGING THAT "THE U.S. HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RHODESIA'S FUTURE," ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT WITH US INVOLVEMENT, THE USSR WOULD ALSO CLAIM A ROLE IN ZIMBABWE, PAVING THE WAY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. IN ANY CASE, IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT NKOMO WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THE US AS NEGOTIATING PARTNERS, BUT SITHOLE DOUBTED THAT MUGABE WOULD.

5. SITHOLE MADE NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH GOS NO DOUBT WOULD HAVE BRUSHED ASIDE. HE CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH A GENERAL APPEAL FOR SWEDISH SUPPORT AND SAID HE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO SWEDEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END CONFIDENTIAL.
PERRY

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